

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY AND RISK FACTORS**

- SEPERATION FROM ABUSER
- OBSESSION OVER VICTIM
- DEPRESSION/MENTAL ILLNESS OF ABUSER
- ABUSER HAS EXTENDED HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND/OR USE OF OTHER VIOLENCE
  - ABUSER'S ESCALATION OF RISK TAKING
  - ABUSER'S ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE
    - VICTIM IS PREGNANT
- ABUSER'S USE THREATS AND/OR FANTASIES OF HOMICIDE OR SUICIDE
  - ABUSER'S POSSESSION OF WEAPONS
  - STALKING OF VICTIM
- ABUSER'S HISTORY OF RAGE AND/OR ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR
  - HOSTAGE TAKING BY ABUSER
  - ABUSER'S USE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
  - DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL ABUSE
- ABUSER'S WITH VIOLENCE IN FAMILY OF ORIGIN
  - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
- ABUSER WHO IS LIVING WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT HIS OWN
  - ABUSER WHO IS UNEMPLOYED

- REMEMBER: There is no definite measure of whether or not an abuser will kill his/her partner. This list is to be used as a guide in combination with safety planning with the victim, NOT as a sole identifier of whether or not a victim will be killed.

(Adapted from Barbara Hart's Lethality Risk Factors and Pennsylvania Coalition against DV)